step \vaa taken because, on general principles, it was deemed hazardous to expose so small a force as that under Johnston's command to the attack of an array BO large*, an that which it was known McClellan could bring into the field. It may be remarked that the solicitude of President .Davis for the safety of John-stem's army was awakened by the serious reverses which the Con fed (Crates had sustained in the West by the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson with some 15,000 men on the fith and Kith of February.[1] It wits this, and not any rumor of the movement upon Urbana, which induced the Confederate President to insist on Johnston"^ retiring as soon as possible to a more secure position.

General Johnston's army evacuated Manassas and its vicinity on thoovening of Sunday, March t), 18G2.[2] It haft hewn generally supposed that this withdrawal of the Oonfwlwatu army to the Rappahannock oeca-Hiomul it elmitgt* in General McClelland plan for the movement of the Army of the Potomac; that his plan of landing at Urbana waR abandoned, because, now that Johnston hud placed himself HO much nearer Richmond, the expectation of reaching that city [a] before it could be strongly reinforced," which one of the recommendations of the Urbana scheme, was not likely to be realized.[3]

But the fact IB, that the Urbana plan had been given up and the plan of taking Fortress Monroe as a bane had been

* Dtvi* to Johnicon, February 19, x8f>2: *' I am very anxious to sec you.

Events have *cm* our arms and our hopes the gloomiest shadows, and at •tteh ft time we must show redoubled energy and resolution." 5 \V. R.,

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[s] 5 W. RM 526, [s] Webb, 27, 28 ; Sxvintnn, no, «) i.